

hinterland, southern border regions between the safer legal ports of entry, the cartels smuggle people and drugs into the United States. State and local officials do what they can to help the Feds protect these areas, but they are simply outmanned and out-equipped.

Madam Speaker, the Border Patrol needs help from local officials. Millions of pieces of equipment will soon return from Iraq. This includes UAVs that could be used as eyes in the sky for the border defenders. This equipment could fill in the massive gaps in surveillance of remote areas of the border.

I've introduced the SEND Act that would send UAVs, HUMVEES, and night surveillance equipment to our border governments. Washington could partner with border States to protect America. Sending surplus military equipment to the southern border will give Americans a return on their investment by enhancing our national security.

The American people have invested billions of dollars in equipment used to secure Iraq. Now it's time to use this same equipment to secure the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1210

HIRING OUR VETERANS

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. As a daughter of a Korean war veteran, I firmly believe that we have a responsibility to better insure that our Nation's veterans find work when they return home.

To me, veterans, especially post-9/11, are struggling to find employment. We can and must do better. Last week, I introduced the Hiring Our Veterans Act to strengthen current law that I introduced and championed successfully in 2007 and again in 2009, which provided a tax credit to employers to hire unemployed veterans.

Today, the House of Representatives, in a bipartisan way, will pass legislation that builds on this effort and expands job opportunities for our veterans. It will expand the maximum tax credit available to employers who will hire disabled veterans who have been unemployed for 6 months, and it strengthens the hiring tax credit to benefit both short-term and long-term unemployed veterans.

This is a huge victory for our brave men and women and their families who have sacrificed so much for our Nation and our freedom. And as we wind down two wars, it is our duty and our honor to support our veterans and better insure that they have good, stable jobs when they return to home.

McKEE FOODS

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor McKee Foods, a company in my district best known for its Little Debbie snack cakes.

McKee Foods is a role model for companies across the country. It is a company committed to excellence—excellence in customer service, excellence in the treatment of its employees, and excellence in finding a better way, which, by the way, is McKee's motto.

In 1982, the company built a plant in Gentry, Arkansas. Today, the plant is the lifeblood of the community. It employs more than 1,500 people who take pride in their work, who are loyal to their company, and who believe in service to their community.

McKee has been best known for developing innovative processes to improve its operations and become a better corporate citizen. That's why the company's recent announcement that its Gentry plant produces zero landfill waste comes as no surprise.

Two years ago, McKee's plant management team and employees came together and challenged themselves to be better stewards of the environment by producing zero landfill waste. True to form, the plant teamed up with local recycling companies and put in place new processes to achieve this goal.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate McKee Foods for its accomplishment. It is a tribute to the dedication of the company's leadership and its employees.

JULIE MICHELSON

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. I rise today to honor Rhode Island's former attorney general, Julius Michelson. Julie passed away at his home this past Saturday.

Julie Michaelson was a brilliant and caring man, deeply committed to social justice and equality. He was an accomplished lawyer and a distinguished public servant who served our country both abroad and at home.

Julie was a first lieutenant in the Army in World War II. A passionate defender of justice, he also served as general counselor to the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, a State senator in Rhode Island, and State attorney general.

Julie is credited with playing a key role in the passage of our State's fair housing law, which prohibits discrimination in access to housing.

I had the pleasure of knowing Julie as a friend, a colleague, and a neighbor. His role in the community and his commitment to justice was unmatched. He made the world a better place.

I offer my sincere condolences to Rita and the entire Michelson family. Julie Michelson will be greatly missed.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, this is a tale of two jobs programs.

In the first, the government moves to put \$500 million in loans in a private company. These loans are supposed to build a factory and create what the Vice President calls permanent jobs. The President tours their facilities, the Secretary of Energy lauds the company, top White House officials show an interest in the project, OMB worries are overruled, and the money is handed out. A year later, the company is bankrupt and all of the government money is lost.

In the second tale, a private company wants to build a pipeline that would create 20,000 jobs directly and a hundred thousand jobs indirectly. They don't need a single dime of government money. In fact, they're paying the bill for significant government environmental reviews of the project. Even though their project is declared safe by the State Department, they're ordered to perform another year of environmental studies.

Solyndra and Keystone XL—we have a White House that is eager to waste the public's money on one failing company but stands in the way of another company who doesn't need a dollar from the American taxpayer. Go figure.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. More than 400 unemployed Americans have shared their story with us in the last 2 weeks. Here they are. They illustrate in no uncertain terms the urgent need for Congress to extend Federal unemployment insurance through 2012. Without action, 2 million Americans will lose their benefits by February, as shown in this chart. Two million Americans like Phil from Clinton Township. He wrote to us with a resolve common among the stories that we've received, and I quote:

"I am by no means unintelligent. I am by no means lazy. And I am by no means giving up. Without unemployment benefits, I will not be able to pay my bills (including my cell phone so I may receive calls from potential employers) and finding something to eat will become increasingly difficult."

Congress has never allowed the Federal program to expire with the unemployment rate as high as it remains today, and we must not start now. We must act now.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the American people to let their voice be heard. Our crushing national debt and our